

## Arizona Children's Environmental Health Winter Workshop

Attendance: Robert Priess (Knock 'N Out Pest Control), Steve Martin (Arrow Pest Control), Rick Rupkey II (University Termite & Pest), Chris Fitzgerald (Critter Getter Pest Control), Michael Lamm, Joe Botello and Tony Scarfo (Phoenix Union High School District), Gary Mangum (Thatcher Unified School District), Kurt Kalusa (Kyrene School District), Wilmer Woody and Cleveland Sangster (Navajo Housing Authority), Jim Doerkson and Derek Ozment (Phoenix Zoo), Ken Colpaert (Orkin), Don Callaway (Arizona Organic), Purvi Patel and Rechelle Harrion Moore (Maricopa County Department of Public Health), Gavin Gallifant (National Environmental Solutions), Elisabeth Lawaczek (AZ Dept. Health), William W. Nelson (Paradise Valley Unified School District), Anna Masayesva (Hope Environmental Protection Office), Doug Ozar and Erik Hernandez (GRIC), Jeff Homstad (Tempe Elementary School), Dawn Gouge and Jennifer Snyder (University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center).

\*\*5 Continuing Education Credits were awarded to pest control operators who indicated a license number on the sign-in; please contact Dawn with any questions\*\*

### **UPDATES:**

Phoenix Unified School District: Tony Scarfo

- Spike in roof rat activity
- New IPM staff

Thatcher Unified School District: Gary Mangum

- Bees & bats increasing problems, occurring annually

Kyrene School District: Kurt Kalusa

- Ant and bees are problems
- District purchased new stereomicroscope with digital photography for the district's IPM program: (the Leica EZ4 D)

Phoenix Zoo: Derek Ozment and Jim Doerkson

- Rodents
- Bees; use catch-and-release method, where possible
- Will new legislation regarding bees affect us?

University Pest Control: Rick Rupkey II.

- DuPont products "good for schools"
- Brachymyrmex – ridiculously small, don't trail, becoming real problem, trying exclusion, repellents, baits, etc.

Hopi Environmental Protection Office: Anna Masayesva

- Influx of darkling beetles (carpet beetles) in fall

**BEE REMEDIATION – Dr. Dawn Gouge (UA, and ACEHC Director)**

\*\*THIS IS A 5-MB POWERPOINT PRESENTATION, AVAILABLE FROM DAWN & JENNIFER\*\*

Legislation was passed this year which added “feral bee hives” to the list of Public Health Nuisances under ARS 36-601. This legislation went into effect in September of 2007. Currently, Vector Control records complaints as part of their Environmental Complaints tracking system. However, no one currently responds to remediate situations. If this

The group additionally offered the following for honey bees found in:

- |                                  |                        |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| ✓ Dumpsters                      | ✓ Wall voids           | ✓ Fissures in trees                    |
| ✓ Play equipment in school yards | ✓ Street signal lights | ✓ Telephone poles and electrical boxes |

Bee removal tips:

- ✓ Avoid fabric softeners (bee attractant)
- ✓ Remediation of colonies using 2% dish soap in water solution – do not use “citrus” scent!
- ✓ Conduct remediation at night wherever possible; it is cooler at night, bees are less active, and only 5% will be away from the hive at this time.

**BATS – Nancy Renison (Arizona Game & Fish Department)**

\*\*THIS IS A 5-MB POWERPOINT PRESENTATION, AVAILABLE FROM DAWN & JENNIFER\*\*

A building inspection for bats yielded the following questions and answers:

Q. Will bats leave any physical signs as to an entry point?

A. Yes. Bats leave urine stains on walls, approximately the size of the bat itself. Urine on walls may appear translucent when fresh, or white if not fresh. If the urine is very old, it may appear amber colored or crystallized. Bats also leave a darker stain around the urine from body oils and scent (musk) marking. Signs of bat activity also include accumulations of droppings (guano).

Q. How does bat guano appear different from mouse droppings?

A. Bat guano is small and dark, similar to mouse droppings. But most types of bat guano that we’re likely to find in Arizona consists almost entirely of arthropod exoskeletons. If rubbed gently in hand, the guano will turn to dust. {Keep in mind

that bat guano is capable of transmitting histoplasmosis – though a case has never been documented in Arizona – and requires the same precautions as when dealing with accumulations of bird droppings: clean with a 10% bleach solution and wear a protective, NIOSH-approved face mask. }

- Q. What is the protected status of bats, and can they be dealt with in the same way as arthropods?
- A. Bats are protected in Arizona, and use of pesticides – while not illegal – will not likely be successful in deterring or preventing bats. Chemicals may in fact only serve to agitate the bats into activity, thus worsening the problem. **A comprehensive document on IPM guidelines for bats in Arizona’s urban areas was handed out to attendees, and is available upon request with Dawn or Jennifer.**